

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 14, 2002      LB 873, 912

order? Thank you. (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal pages 987-988.) 44 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Committee amendments are adopted. Next vote would be the vote to advance the bill. There's been a request by Senator Chambers for a roll call vote, regular order. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 988.) 46 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 873.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: LB 873 advances. I raise the call. LB 912.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 912, a bill by Senator Dierks. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 9, referred to the Agriculture Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have Agriculture Committee amendments pending, Mr. President. (AM2389, Legislative Journal page 362.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dierks, you're recognized to open on the bill.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, LB 912 was introduced at the request of the Department of Agriculture. It makes two simple changes to the Nebraska Farm Mediation Act. Some of you who have been around for some time are familiar with the program, and may recall that we first enacted the program in 1988. This was one of reforms that arose out of the very difficult 1980s when agriculture was facing a severe financial crisis and farmers everywhere were facing bankruptcy. The Nebraska Farm Mediation Program was established pursuant to the Ag Credit Act of 1987 to provide mediation services to farmers who had...who held loans with USDA's farm lending agencies. As part of that legislation, states may apply to become a USDA certified mediation program. Certification allows the state to mediate federal ag loan cases, and be eligible for federal funding. The USDA Reorganization Act enable...enacted in 1994 expanded federal cost-share funding to the mediation of adverse decisions regarding participation or